

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: WHITHER THE PRD?

REF: SD 4748

1. AS THE OPEN POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN JUAN BOSCH AND JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ NOW ENTERS ITS THIRD DAY, BOTH SIDES ARE CLAIMING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ADHERENTS IN THEIR QUEST FOR CONTROL OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINCANO (PRD) WR WHAT USED TO BE THE PRD. THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF THE PRD'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CEN) WHO CONSTITUTE WHAT BOSCH CLAIMS TO BE A RIGHT WING (AND ANTI-BOSCH) FACTION MET NOV 20 AND FORMALLY ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE BADLY SHAKEN PARTY. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING WERE PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO, ALMANZOR GONZALEZ CANAHUATE, OFELIA CACERES, ABRAHAM BAUTISTA, GILBERTO MARTINEZ, LEONOR SANCHEZ, SANTO SENA PEREZ, BARTOLOME MOQUETE ANDINO, MARIO GARCIA, SILVESTRE ANTONIO GUZMAN, MANUEL FERNANDEZ MARMOL, SECUNDINO GIL MORALES, AND MAXIMO LOVATON PITTALUGA. THE CEN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AGREED TO 1) REMAIN IN PERMANENT SESSION DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS, 2) URGE ALL LEVELS OF THE PARTY APPARATUS TO OBEY INSTRUCTIONS ONLY FROM THE CEN, AND 3) SEND A COMMISSION TO BOSCH ASKING FOR HIM TO RETURN TO THE PRD. PENA GOMEZ (WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE CEN MEETING) WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING

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IN HIS POWER TO PERSUADE BOSCH TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION.

THESE EFFORTS WOULD INCLUDE, HE REPORTEDLY SAID, URGING CURRENT PRD LEADERS TO RESIGN THEIR POSITIONS IF THIS WOULD INDUCE BOSCH TO RETURN TO THE PRD.

2. BOSCH, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS AGAIN PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED THAT HIS RESIGNATION IS "IRREVOCABLE" AND THAT HE HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF RETURNING TO THE PRD. IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION, BOSCH TOLD THE PRESS LAST NIGHT (NOV 20) THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED TAKING THIS STEP SINCE LAST DECEMBER WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR TO HIM THAT A "RIGHT WING FACTION" LED BY PENZ GOMEZ HAD DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PARTY. THIS FACTION, ACCORDING TO BOSCH, WAS CONSPIRING AGAINST HIM AND THE PERMANENT COMMISSION "TO THWART THE THEORETICAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT" OF THE PARTY. HE DID NOT ELABORATE, HOWEVER, ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. TO SHOW HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE OPPOSITION UNITY MOVEMENT, BOSCH PERSONALLY ATTENDED THE NOV 20 MEETING OF THE OPPOSITION BLOC'S ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES WHERE HIS NEW PARTIDO DE LA LIBERACION DOMINICANA (PLD) WAS FORMALLY ADMITTED. (THE NEW PRD LEADERSHIP HAS YET TO NAME DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY ALTHOUGH TWO SLOTS ARE STILL SET ASIDE FOR THEM IN THAT BODY.)

4. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE, IN THE FACE OF CONFLICTING CLAIMS, WHICH FACTION WILL COME OUT AHEAD IN THE CURRENT BATTLE BETWEEN BOSCH AND PENA. REFLECTING THE SENSE OF UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION GENERATED BY BOSCH'S NOV 18 ANNOUNCEMENT, THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY "EL CARIBE" CONCLUDED AN EDITORIAL ON NOV 21 BY SAYING BOSCH'S ACTION HAS MERELY FURTHER COMPLICATED THE ALREADY COMPLEX DOMINICAN POLITICAL PANORAMA. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE AFTERNOON TABLOIDS, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY HOSTILE TOWARD BOSCH WHOSE PRECIPITIOUS ACTION THEY CLAIM HAS SERIOUSLY WEAKENED THE OPPOSITION AND STRENGTHENED BALAGUER'S HAND. MEANWHILE, THE "PARTIDO COMUNISTA DOMINICANO" (PCD) PUBLISHED ITS OWN ANALYSIS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. COMING VERY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH, THE PCD DOCUMENT DISMISSED THE RHETORIC OF BOTH FACTIONS AND

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REDUCED THE CURRENT CRISIS TO A SIMPLE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO VERY DIFFERENT, AGGRESSIVE, INTELLIGENT, AND AMBITIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS. WHO WILL ULTIMATELY EMERGE THE WINNER IN THE SHORT-RUN IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORECAST AT THIS TIME. IN THE LONG-RUN, HOWEVER, IT IS THE MORE BASIC CONCEPT OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH MUST INEVITABLY SUFFER AS A RESULT OF BOSCH'S DECISION TO BOLT THE PARTY WITH WHICH HE HAS BEEN INTIMATELY

LINKED SINCE 1939.
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